

city, that the burning of the prairies in Wisconsin and Missouri, is frequently, and almost immediately followed by rain. This observation had been confirmed to Dr. King by other observers; and in the western country it had become a popular impression that a prairie-fire was the forerunner of rain.

Dr. Coates had met with a statement in Nichols's History of Leicestershire, which bore on the same question; viz. that in the reign of one of the Stuarts, orders were sent to a sheriff of Staffordshire to discontinue the burning of Ferns during a Royal progress, because the operation was usually followed by rain.

Mr. Phillips adverted to the memorable hail-storm which occurred immediately after the last great fire at Constantinople; the fact being fully authenticated by Mr. Walsh and Commodore Porter. That rain is common in South America after the burning of the Pampas, is familiar to meteorologists; and the attention of the members is especially solicited to this inquiry, in order that a more extended series of facts may be collected and compared.

MEETING OF BUSINESS, JUNE 29, 1841.

VICE PRESIDENT WETHERILL in the Chair.

REPORTS.

The Corresponding Secretary read his report for the last month, which was adopted.

The Botanical Committee made the following report, which was ordered to be printed in the Society's proceedings.

Hall of Academy, June 22d, 1840.—The Botanical committee having examined the collection of plants lately presented to the Academy by Wm. Hembel, Esq., (being that portion of the Herbarium of the late Prof. C. S. Rafinesque containing the specimens from which the descriptions in his Medical Flora have been made, together with other valuable European and Oriental plants,) respectfully state, that they have found them in good condition, and have accordingly proceeded to incorporate them with the Herbarium of the Academy. They suggest therefore that the thanks of the Society be presented to Mr. Hembel for the same.

On behalf of the Committee,

R. BRIDGES,

W. S. ZANTZINGER,

G. WATSON.

The Botanical committee reported that the portion of the Society's Herbarium placed in the hands of Drs. Torrey and Gray, of N. Y., for arrangement, has been returned, not only in good order, but much improved by the addition of notes, in the form of names, with references to the Flora of North America, by Messrs. Torrey and Gray.

The committee on Mr. Conrad's paper on "New Species of Medial Tertiary and other Fossils of the United States," reported in favour of publication.

Dr. Morton announced that, agreeably to appointment, he had prepared a Memoir of William Maclure, Esq., late President of the Academy; whereupon it was on motion,

Resolved, That Dr. Morton be requested to read the said Memoir on Thursday evening next, July 1, at 8 o'clock; and that the scientific bodies of the city be invited to attend.

Resolved, That the Memoir be read in the Hall of the Academy, and that a committee be appointed to make the necessary arrangements.

The following members constitute the committee:—Dr. Goddard, Dr. Elwyn and Mr. Phillips.

The Society then proceeded to ballot for Corresponding Members, when the following gentlemen were duly elected :

Edward Charlesworth, Esq., of London.

Francis Alger, Esq., of Boston, Massachusetts.